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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the referenced application is respectfully requested.

Claims 16 through 20 have been amended to more particularly point out and more distinctly claim the present invention.

Affirmation of Election The provisional election of the claims in Group III, viz., claims 16-20, is affirmed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The objections and rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are believed obviated by the amendments to the claims submitted herewith.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 Claims 16 through 20 stand rejected under as evidenced by U. S. Published Application US2003/0066256 (DeBlock et al.).

In view of the amendments submitted herewith it is submitted that pending claims 16 through 20 now recite patentable subject such that any continued reliance upon the DeBlock reference as a ground of rejection is inappropriate.

Independent claim 16, as amended, is directed to a building that includes a glazing element and a support structure therefor. The support structure has a channel defined therein. The glazing element is comprised of a laminate and a clip that holds the laminate in or to the support structure. The laminate includes at least one glass layer bonded over one of its major planar surfaces to a thermoplastic polymer interlayer. The attachment clip itself includes a mounting portion and an arm. The mounting portion of the clip is bonded directly to an extending portion of the thermoplastic polymer interlayer.

The arm of the clip extends away from the mounting portion in a direction that is generally perpendicular to the planar surfaces of the glass layer. The arm

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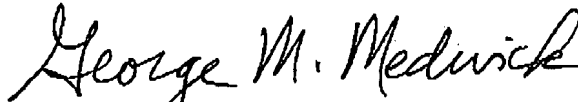
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projects into the retaining channel to align and hold the laminate therein. The projecting portion of the arm cooperates with the support structure to interlock the laminate to the support structure and thereby to restrict rotational and/or transverse movement of the laminate within the channel or movement of the laminate out of the channel.

These structural and functional relationships are now recited in amended claim 16. They serve clearly to differentiate the claimed invention from the DeBlock reference. Whether one chooses to label either the member 18 or the member 21 of the DeBlock reference as a "clip", it is clear that the portion of such a "clip" that serves to provide a retaining function extends in a direction that is substantially parallel to the planar surface of the glass layer 22. It is submitted that the structure shown in DeBlock would be unable to provide a motion-restrictive functionality when used in a building of the type wherein the channel of the support member lies forwardly or rearwardly of the glazing element.

For these reasons it is submitted that independent claim 16, as amended, and the claims dependent therefrom, are distinguished patentably over the DeBlock reference put forward by the Examiner. It is believed that this application stands in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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